

## CEMETERY COMMISSION

The Cemetery Commission acts as the policy setting committee for the Cemetery operation. The commission is responsible for expenditures from various cemetery trust funds and oversees the operation and care of town-owned cemeteries. The three-member commission is appointed by the Town Manager and meets quarterly with additional meetings scheduled as needed.

Dan Provost  
*Chair*

Barbara Greenslade  
George 'Yogi' Rogers

The Town's six cemeteries are: Fairview Cemetery, Hillside (North Burying Ground), Old Pioneer Burying Ground, Pine Grove Cemetery, Westlawn (West Burying Ground), and Wright Cemetery. The maintenance and operation of cemeteries is within the Parks, Recreation, and Cemetery Department. The Cemetery office is located at Pine Grove. Burial records and information are maintained at the Recreation office in addition to the Cemetery office.

The Cemetery Commission reviewed the fee structure of all cemetery charges. Fees had not increased since 2004. A new fee structure was put in place effective January 1, 2008.

The commission wishes to thank the following people for donations to the cemeteries:

- Donna Gould and Family – tree
- Nancy Keelan and Family – granite bench
- Jessica Mingolelli and the Lynch Family – memorial tree
- Dorothy Gaumer and Family – granite bench

The commission has a tree-planting donation program and welcomes donations.

There have been a number of trees removed due to storm damage or disease. There has been a marked increase in broken limbs and fallen trees in particular at the older cemeteries. The crew removes the damage as needed to save the tree.

Several areas were cleared near the maintenance/office building at Pine Grove for storage of material. An area was also cleared for a small nursery to grow some much-needed shrubbery.

The Cemetery Commission met at the Town Tomb to view the interior. There were a number of wooden stakes, a grave box, and an old ladder that has been used as a lowering device. The tomb had been overgrown but Cemetery Supervisor Dick Nawoichik was able to get the door open.

John Mangiaratti of the Town of Westford GIS department has been working with Danielle Leblanc, Cemetery Senior Assistant, on maps and database management for the cemetery records. Several proposals were reviewed for a software management package. John has done a tremendous job working with the vendor to allow the department to better manage the records in electronic form. The goal is to have the information online.

There were 34 burials (1 infant, 9 cremations, and 24 full burials). There were 69 sales of grave lots (68 graves and 1 urn lot).